



**School Parent and Family Engagement Plan
Girls Empowerment Middle School / GEMS
School Year 2022 - 2023
Revision Date 11/15/2022**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Girls Empowerment Middle School (hereafter referred to as GEMS) receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Nevada Department of Education.

GEMS agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
 - Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
 - (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
 - (C) Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child
 - (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

GEMS will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Starting with the initial Annual Title I Meeting of the year (in late July or early August), families will be provided with the current version of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan and be requested to review the plan and provide feedback. Following the initial review, parents will have further opportunities to refine and/or revise the plan in subsequent monthly parent meetings scheduled for the end of August, September, and October to allow for finalization in time for the November submission of the finalized plan to the Nevada Department of Education.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

GEMS will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

GEMS will hold its Annual Title I meeting no later than the second week of August annually to ensure that parents have the opportunity to receive Title I information and copies of the parent and family engagement policy.

COMMUNICATIONS

GEMS will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

To provide parents and families the above, GEMS will:

- Provide advance notice of no less than 2 weeks regarding Title I meetings to discuss the implementation of Title I programs
- Utilize parent surveys to determine optimal times & dates for meetings to maximize attendance
- Use Zoom or other telecommunications services to provide ease of access for families who are unable to physically attend meetings
- Communicate to all families using Infinite Campus' messenger service and translating communications into Spanish to meet the needs of our largest group of non-native English speakers

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

GEMS will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Starting with the initial Annual Title I Meeting of the year (in late July or early August), families will be provided with the current version of the Title I School-Parent Compact and be requested to review the compact and provide feedback. Following the initial review, parents will have further opportunities to refine and/or revise the compact in subsequent monthly parent meetings scheduled for the end of August, September, and October to allow for finalization in time for the November submission of the finalized compact to the Nevada Department of Education.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, GEMS will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

Though GEMS is not subject to this requirement due to its size and the size of the Title I disbursement to the school, GEMS will still engage parents by providing a copy of the Title I budget at the school's annual meeting in July / August, and parents will have the opportunity to share their opinions on how this money could / should be used in the second Title I meeting of the school year in late August.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

GEMS will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Utilizing community partners to support family involvement in education decisions
- Leveraging resources available through community and municipal partners to help families get access to resources which could help families more fully participate in the education of their children
- Publicizing on its website, in its main office, and via parent communications programs and activities which could support parents and families in this way

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

GEMS will build the parents' and families' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The challenging State's academic standards
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

To provide parents and families the above, GEMS will:

- Host Student Led Parent Teacher Conferences every October, in which students will lead a discussion of their academic and career goals and their current academic achievement as measured by diagnostics such as MAP testing and/or i-Ready
- Provide families with information on how to access and use i-Ready at home to continue students' academic growth away from school
- Host family workshops to give parents and families other tools and strategies that they can use at home to meet or exceed academic expectations in the school

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

GEMS will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by:

- Implementing professional development aimed at improving teach & family communication
- Regularly reaching out to families to communicate both areas for improvement and areas of student success which should be celebrated
- Involving parents in Title I and other parent meetings as active participants to further build ties between the school and the community
- Hosting Open House events for families to allow them to engage with teachers and staff in a welcoming and approachable manner
- Asking for parent volunteers to lead trainings for staff about how to better engage with them as educational partners

GEMS will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- Providing virtual meeting opportunities for families who cannot attend in person
- Providing translation services to the best of our ability to ensure that families can get information in their native languages
- Surveying parents in advance of engagement activities to ensure they are scheduled at a time which will maximize family involvement, and
- Providing individualized opportunities for involvement which meet the needs of individual families

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents.
- To maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement

- Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.